

# The Link



## Rate of Return on Spiritual Investment

My prayer life has been a journey with many new discoveries around each bend in the path. I had the opportunity to talk with a young man who I had been praying for these past 4 years. I learned that my prayers were answered – he had completed college and got a full-time job in his career field. For some this is a simple task, but not so for this young man; he had to overcome poverty, with all its pitfalls and challenges. Unfortunately though, he is no longer attending worship that I know of, which got me to question my prayer life, specifically my motives for prayer. Did I pray for this young man's success that he might merely succeed financially? Did I pray with an ulterior motive of desiring him to stay in the pew and fill the coffers one day soon? What was the rate of return I was expecting on my spiritual investment of prayer in this young man's life?

I used to ascertain as much information about a person and/or situation as possible that I might know how to pray for someone. I did this because I didn't want to waste my time praying for answers that would be returned in the negative. Nobody wants to waste time and energy, whether physically or spiritually. Somewhere along the way, 20 years ago, I got greedy and began to only pray for those situations and/or people that I could capitalize on – people who I thought would matter to me personally or to the ministry I was serving. Then the Lord reminded me of Matthew 13:1-19. It's a horrible investment strategy when you have finite resources of time and energy, but for our Heavenly Father, (who is eternal and omniscient and supplies all our needs) it's the spiritual investment strategy He calls us to. He basically says, "Just scatter seeds, just pray, just share the peace of Christ, just share the Word of God; I'll take care of the rate of return."

So I pray for others with no motive but the pure joy that I've been empowered to pray. I share God's Word with nothing but the pure joy that God's Word lives inside of me and can't be shut up (Jeremiah 20:9). So this young man's joy of earning a bachelor's degree and full-time pay and benefits is my joy, too, because of my spiritual investment in him, regardless of whether he's in worship right now and/or perpetuating the church's mission and budgetary needs.

What ministry field or spiritual investment has the Lord set out before you today and how will you invest in it regardless of whether you get out of it what you want? As we head into a new church program year, bustling with discipleship and Christian service opportunities, how will you invest in God's Kingdom? Are you able to let go of your ideal rate of return and just fulfill the Lord's commands simply for the pure joy that the Lord has given you a heart to follow Him? Let me know; I'm curious.

Sincerely, Pastor Dave

## Do you have children in grades K-8?

Join us for Rally Day on Sunday, September 8th at 10:00 a.m. in the courtyard. There will be activity stations hosted by our teachers for all grades, including: Nature Scavenger Hunt, God's Eyes Craft, Candy Prayers, Board Games. A registration table will be on-site with forms to register. Please join us. Sunday School is free this year, compliments of the NRC Women's Group.

## Upcoming Events

- Sep 8 Sunday School resumes
- Sep 8 Bring-a-Dish Brunch
- Sep 9 Consistory Meeting
- Sep 11 Adult Bible Study resumes
- Sep 15 NRC Women
- Sep 16 Search Committee
- Sep 17 Upcoming Greeter/Usher schedule input due
- Sep 20 Youth Group bonfire
- Sep 29 Mission Offering
- Sep 30 College addresses due

## More Important Church News

### Adult Bible Study - 10 Week Series



Join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. starting September 11th for The Anatomy of a Disciple Study Series. Become more aware of what God is already doing in your life and enjoy more genuine discipleship in Jesus Christ.

The guide for this 10 week series is recommended. The Anatomy of a Disciple: A Discipleship Guide by Rick Taylor can be purchased at most online book retailers (\$5.99); scholarships available. Contact Neva in the church office if you need assistance in ordering.

### Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee seeks to provide fellowship opportunities for our Christian Community. We host the weekly coffee hours which provide not only some great snacking and coffee/tea but a chance to fellowship together. We also host or coordinate other key events during the year. Join the committee – we would treasure your help and ideas! Contact Bev Wetzel or Mary Rooney if you are interested or can help out now and again. Also, if you have a talent for advertising, we need your guidance!

We are gearing up for the September 8th Rally Day Pot Luck Brunch and ask that you bring a food item to share that day. Bring a casserole, salad, sandwiches – or whatever the spirit moves you to bring. We will provide the dessert, coffee/tea. The luncheon is held directly after church and is always enjoyed by all.

The Women's Group plans to bake pies again for the holidays. This includes an outing to the apple farm to select the apples – a fun time. Let Lisa Bergstrom or Bev Wetzel know if you are interested in joining this activity in late Oct/early Nov.

Thanks to all who made coffee hours this summer a rousing success! The team went 'all out' and we had frequent 'picnic-type' events throughout the summer months. It was fun.

A last note, if anyone has unused greeting cards that can be used for 'notes', 'get well' or 'bereavement', and you are looking to find a home for them, please leave them in the office with Neva with ATTN: Mary Rooney. They'll get put to good use at NRC.

### NRC Women's Tea with Guest Speaker

Do you want tea, savories and sweets in a relaxed space? Need some inspiration in this hectic, cattywampus world? The NRC Women's Group is hosting a midday Tea for all women and girls (12 years and older) followed by an inspirational speaker on Saturday, October 12 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. There will be an abundant variety of homemade savories and confections to be enjoyed with various teas, including decaffeinated and herbal teas. The speaker, Karen Kostelansky-Mullen, will give an inspirational talk about her personal journey as a Christian. Tickets for this event are \$10.00 per person and will go on sale soon. Come as you are and invite a friend! For more information and/or tickets, please contact Mary Rooney at roontune2@gmail.com or Lisa Bergstrom at lisa.bergstrom@comcast.net

### Worship Services Returning to the Sanctuary

Services will be held in the Sanctuary starting September 8th with refreshments following in Fellowship Hall.

### Opportunities Available on Sundays

Would you like to be a Greeter/Usher, or help with refreshments after service? Contact the church office for more information or to be added to the rotation calendar.

### Hillsborough Food Pantry Most Needed Items

- Coffee
- Peanut butter
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Relish
- Laundry detergent
- Dish detergent

## More Important Church News

### Communion Preparers Needed!

Looking for an easy way to get involved? The worship committee is looking for people willing to prepare communion for the first Sunday of every month. Two people working together is best. If we find lots of volunteers, we could divide the months. It's easy to do and we'll have training for anyone interested. Please contact Robin Kiefer or Jim Jaakobs to sign up!

### Additional Ushers Needed for New Schedule

Our list of volunteers is dwindling and you can make a difference by adding your name to our calendar rotation! The upcoming schedule will include October through January. Please contact Neva in the church office if you can help by September 17th.

### Flourishing Churches Grant Awarded to NRC

On April 1st, a grant application was submitted to the RCA through the Classis to partially fund our septic system replacement. Notification has been received that we've been awarded \$40,000 towards the approximate \$100,000 cost of this project. Our church was one in a group of 80 vying for various awards. Let us give thanks to God and all those who worked very hard in writing and submitting the grant!

### College Addresses Collected

NRC Members: If you have a child in college (home or away) please send Neva, in the church office, their school/home address and current level (ie: Freshman...) by the September 30th deadline.

### Classis Dues for 2019

Dues for this year is \$90.67 per communicant member. Congregations in the Reformed Church in America pay an annual per capita assessment to sustain the administrative work of the governing assemblies: The General Synod, Regional Synod, and the Delaware- Raritan Classis, which our church is a part of. The Neshanic Reformed Church Consistory encourages us all to consider paying this assessment as a special gift. (Please mark as "Classis Dues".)

### September Mission Cancer Support Community of Central NJ

In a home-like setting, offerings include professionally-led support groups, educational programs, nutritional and healthy cooking workshops and healthy life-style programs. There are many resources and opportunities to socialize with other individuals who understand the impact of cancer. Programs and services offered empower the individual diagnosed with cancer as well as the caregiver to take an active role in their journey through and beyond the cancer diagnosis.

This offering will be collected during worship on September 29. Donations are also accepted all month via our E-Giving (online donation) website, the blue Monthly Mission offering envelope or write "September Mission" in the memo section of your check. Thank you for your support!

### Contact Us

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